

TARIFF AND INDEPENDENT TREASURY.

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MISSOURI,

RELATIVE

*To the tariff of 1846, and the independent treasury law.*

DECEMBER 20, 1847.

Read, and referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

JOINT RESOLUTIONS of the General Assembly of the State of Missouri.

Whereas, it is believed that efforts will be made in the Congress of the United States, by the advocates of the manufacturing and banking interests, to revive the tariff of 1842, and to repeal the independent treasury act, and restore the public revenue to the custody of banking corporations; and whereas all burdensome restrictions on foreign trade are manifestly injurious to the people of this State, who mainly depend upon the foreign market for the sale of their surplus products; and whereas all legislation for the exclusive benefit of particular interests, to the injury of all other interests, is unjust, impolitic, and contrary to the spirit and intent of the constitution of the United States; and whereas the collection of the public revenues in the paper of banking corporations, and the employment of such corporations as fiscal agents of the government, have a tendency to banish gold and silver from circulation, and produce ruinous fluctuations in the value of property, by excessive expansions of paper currency, and sudden contractions of the same, to the injury both of the people and the government; and whereas the best remedy for these evils is the collection and disbursement of the public revenues in the only currency known to the constitution—gold and silver: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri as follows:*

1st. In the opinion of this general assembly, the Congress of the United States has no power to levy and collect duties upon imports for the purpose of sustaining one branch of domestic industry to the manifest injury of others. The act of Congress of August 30, 1842, commonly known as the tariff of 1842, by imposing high, and, in many instances, prohibitive duties upon articles of necessity, and low duties upon articles of luxury, with a view to building up a great manufacturing interest in particular sections of the Union, was a perversion of the constitutional power to lay and collect duties upon imports, from its plain intent and meaning, and oppressive to the great mass of the people.

2d. The constitutional power of imposing duties upon imports was given to Congress for the purpose of raising revenue to supply the wants of government. The act of Congress of July 30, 1846, commonly known as the tariff of 1846, by keeping in view the purpose of the constitution, and by the assessment of ad valorem duties, and by avoiding all unjust discriminations and arbitrary minimum valuations, approximates to the true constitutional standard.

3d. The revenues of the United States should be collected in the currency of the constitution, and placed in the custody of officers appointed by, and responsible to the government; and all payments and disbursements on the part of the government should be made in the same currency; the collection and disbursement of the public revenues in the paper of banking corporations having a tendency to subject the people to great loss, and the government to improper and anti-republican influences.

4th. The independent treasury act of 1846, having for its object the collection and disbursement of the public revenues in the currency of the constitution, by officers appointed by, and responsible to the government, is a wise and salutary measure.

5th. It would be unwise and injurious to the best interests of the people of the United States to repeal the tariff act of 1846, or the independent treasury act, or to make any change or modification of either, affecting the principles on which they are respectively based.

6th. The Secretary of State is hereby required to forward to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions.

Approved February 13, 1847.